

# Standards for Declaring a Psychology Major Under Impaction

Accepted as Department policy effective January 28, 2011  
Vote: Yes (26), No (0), Abstain (0)

Policy revised on April 22, 2011  
Votes in attendance: Yes (12), No (0), Abstain (0)  
Votes via email (ending April 29, 2011): Yes (1), No (0), Abstain (0)

Policy revision effective January 2018 voted on May 2018  
Votes in attendance: Yes (18), No (1), Abstain (0)

## **Background:**

Given Psychology's Status as an impacted major at SJSU, certain criteria must be met before current or entering students can be admitted into the major.

The intent of the policy is to ensure that students admitted to the major have a reasonable likelihood of successful completion of the degree program.

The policy bifurcates admission to the major at application and admission to the major as a matriculated student; Implicit in the policy is that a "first semester" not-yet-declared-as-Psychology student (either freshman or transfer) will generally not be able to declare their major as Psychology as it is unlikely that they will meet the requirements for matriculated students.

This revision to the *declaration of major* policy has four major consequences: (1) it removes the ability to declare Psychology based on an overall SJSU GPA > 2.5, (2) allows lower division students to declare psychology prior to having 12 units in the major, (3) adds in a requirement designed to reflect the greater preparation for the major expected of upper division students, and (4) requirements of SB1440.

## **Department of Psychology Policy on Declaration of Major**

### **A. Definitions:**

1. "SJSU GPA in the major" for purposes of declaration of major:
  - a. Is the GPA of those courses (at SJSU or otherwise) that have a PSYC or STAT prefix and any course listed as "*Preparation for the Major*" in the university catalog; and,
  - b. Must include at least 6 units of coursework at SJSU.
2. *Units in the major*
  - a. Is the sum of all qualifying units towards the major from courses taken at SJSU or transferred to SJSU that meet the "*Preparation for the Major*", "*Lower Division Core*", "*Upper Division*", or "*Psychology Electives*" sections of the program requirements listed in the university catalog.

Note that these definitions differ from those used for computing eligibility to graduate since they include preparation for the major.

### **B. Policy**

Declaration of Major (BA or BS) by:

**1. Matriculated SJSU Students**

BEFORE JAN 2019:

Matriculated Students can be admitted into the major when the student meets four criteria:

- a. The students "*SJSU GPA in the major*" can be computed.
- b. The GPA of all courses considered as "*units in the major*" is above 2.5
- c. Not on University probation.
- d. If the student has more than 71 units of coursework that could count towards an undergraduate degree from SJSU, the student must have completed a minimum of twelve (12) "*units in the major.*"

Starting JAN 2019

Matriculated Students can be admitted into the major when the student meets four criteria:

- a. The students "*SJSU GPA in the major*" can be computed.
- b. The minimum GPA of all courses considered as "*units in the major*" is 2.75
- c. Not on University probation.
- d. If the student has more than 71 units of coursework that could count towards an undergraduate degree from SJSU, the student must have completed a minimum of twelve (12) "*units in the major.*"

**2. Students Newly Admitted to the University (declaration at admission):**

**a. Transfer Students:**

- i. There is no guarantee of admission to the major at application
- ii. May be admitted into the major at admission to the university if they have achieved the minimum cumulative GPA for all transferable courses.
- iii.
- iv. By university policy those students with a transfer AA in Psychology will get a bump on the the gpa that is used to compute eligibility for the major (BA Psychology Program only). Students meeting the minimum GPA criterion are ranked and offered admission up to the Department's capacity for that semester. Additional information can be found at <http://info.sjsu.edu/home/admission.html>.

**b. Freshmen Students** may be admitted into the major at admission to the university. Freshmen compete for space in the major based on the CSU Eligibility Index (E.I.) at the time of application and the Department's capacity.

- i. Note that meeting the minimum criteria does not guarantee admission to the major.
- ii. Additional information can be found at <http://info.sjsu.edu/home/admission.html>.

**C. Dissemination:**

Posted as policy on the department webpage.

**D. Scope:**

This policy covers both the BA and BS programs in Psychology. It does not cover the MA and MS programs in Psychology.